

City Council Meeting Packet



October 1, 2019

AGENDA

Norton City Council

October 1, 2019

6:00 P.M.

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Invocation – Rev. Roger Sloce**
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - 1. Meeting of September 17, 2019**
- 5. Audience for Visitors**
- 6. Old Business**
 - A. Resolution in Support of the Community Remebrance Project and Acknowledging with Profound Regret the Existence and Acceptance of Lynching Within the Commonwealth and Calling for Reconciliation Among All Virginians.**
- 7. New Business**
 - A. Presentation by the 2019 AmeriCorps/NCCC Team Bayou 5.**
 - B. Review of Virginia Department of Health Funding Offer for Clear Creek Phase III Waterline Replacement Project.**
 - C. A Request to Refund Erroneously Assessed Personal Property Taxes.**
 - D. Request to Refund Erroneously Assessed Real Estate Taxes.**

E. Discussion Regarding the 2020 Independence Day Celebration.

F. Confirmation of a Check/Transfer in Excess of \$100,000.

G. Closed Meeting for Personnel as Per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), Consultation with Legal Counsel and Briefings by Staff Members or Consultants Pertaining to Actual or Probable Litigation, Where Such Consultation or Briefing in Open Meeting Would Adversely Affect the Negotiating or Litigating Posture of the Public Body as Per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7), and Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia as Amended, Discussion or Consideration of the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose, or of the Disposition of Publically Held Real Property, Where Discussion in an Open Meeting Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body.

1. Appointment to the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Advisory Board for a Two (2) Year Term, Currently Michele Knox Whose Term Expires 9/15/19.

To 9/15/21

8. Comments by the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Council.

9. Adjournment.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

Present: William Mays, Robert Fultz, Jr., Joseph Fawbush, Mark Caruso, and Delores Belcher

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager

The invocation was given by Pastor Freddie Powers and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Norton City Trail Coordinator Shayne Fields.

At this time, Mayor Fawbush asked for the consensus of council to amend the agenda to include, under Item 6-F, consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7), as amended.

It was the consensus of council to amend the agenda to include under Item 6-F consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7), as amended.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by the following vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, and Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt the minutes of the September 3, 2019, meeting as presented.

There was no response to the Mayor's Call for Visitors.

Mr. Ramey said that the AmeriCorps/National Civilian Conservation Corps Team Bayou 5 (NCCC Bayou 5) has been working in the city for two weeks and the team was present with the Norton Trail Coordinator Shayne Fields to update council on their activities and to introduce the team.

Mr. Fields said the team has been working on the Campground Trail at Flag Rock Recreation Area. He explained that the completion of the trail will allow anyone camping in the Upper or Lower Campgrounds to access the trails from the campsites. Mr. Fields then asked the team leader for NCCC Bayou 5 to introduce the team and inform council about other activities the team has been involved with since arriving in Norton.

Team Leader Zack Thompson of Olympia, Washington, told council the team spent the last two weeks working at area events. He said the team changed the American flag at Flag Rock, working with Shayne to build a trail in Flag Rock Recreation Area, went tubing on the Clinch River, hiked to the Devil's Bathtub, kayaked during a full moon on the city reservoir, volunteered at a singing event in Big Stone Gap, and will be working the upcoming Naturalist Rally and the Woodbooger Festival. He then asked each member to introduce themselves and note where they are from: Zack Thompson, Olympia, Washington; Dylan Damkoehler, Parker, Colorado; Garrett McKay, Denver, Colorado; Kira Gafkjen, Fishers, Indiana; Sam

Browning, Kansas City, Missouri; Claudia Carmosino, Manchester, New Hampshire; and Rachel Casey, Austin, Texas.

After a brief discussion and on behalf of council, Mayor Fawbush welcomed NCCC Bayou 5 to the city and thanked the team for helping the city build the trail system at Flag Rock Recreation Area.

The next agenda item was a presentation by Preston Mitchell about the Community Remembrance Project.

Mr. Ramey said Mr. Mitchell contacted him about a project he and others have been working on regarding lynchings that occurred in Wise County. Mr. Ramey said Mr. Mitchell and some of the individuals working with him on this project would like to present some of the group's research and their goals and efforts for the project.

Mr. Mitchell told council the University of Virginia's College at Wise received a \$30,000 grant to fund research on the three lynchings in Wise County. He said the college hired five interns to conduct the study and that he has been working for the past three years with racial reconciliation so that communities can become a "Be Beloved" community, which for the past six years has been part of the national church effort to address racial reconciliation throughout the country. Mr. Mitchell explained the purpose of the resolution is for communities to become aware of the lynchings. He said the goals of the project are to teach this part of history in the classroom, to collect soil from the lynching sites, and to erect community remembrance markers or historical markers at these locations. Mr. Mitchell said on February 21, 2019, the Virginia General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution Number 655 which recognizes the need for conversations to occur about the Commonwealth's past error of accepting lynchings and to develop programs to bring awareness of this history so that reconciliation and healing can begin in communities across the state. Mr. Mitchell informed council that the towns of Coeburn and Wise passed the resolution and that he would like for Norton to be a part of the project and pass a resolution showing support for the Community Remembrance Project. Mr. Mitchell noted that during his research he discovered that Bruce Crawford, who graduated from Norhi in 1915 and who owned the Crawford Weekly Newspaper, in Norton was one of two people, who were instrumental in getting Virginia Governor Harry F. Byrd to get the Virginia General Assembly to pass the first anti-lynching law in 1928 which made lynching a state crime.

Next, John I. Burton High School English Teacher Stephanie Cassell told council that Burton is a very diverse school and she does not perceive any racial division among the students and that she is supportive of the Community Remembrance Project because it presents an opportunity for students to research local history and be a part of the conversations about things that might be difficult but need to be discussed. Ms. Cassell noted specifically that people don't seem to know how to respectfully disagree with one another and respect multiple perspectives and it is important that the students learn to discuss issues even though they might be uncomfortable sometimes.

Mr. Ramey told council for their review, he provided copies in their packets of the resolutions that the towns of Coeburn and Wise passed. He said if council would like to consider a resolution at the next meeting, he has prepared a rough draft similar to the general assembly's and of Wise's resolutions that can be modified as council desires and placed back on the agenda for the October 1st meeting.

It was the consensus of council to add the information about Bruce Crawford to the resolution and place it back on the October 1st agenda for council's consideration.

Norton City Schools Innovation Network Team, teachers Stephanie Cassell, Anu Godsey, and Gabrielle Barnette, presented council with an update on project-based learning at John I. Burton High School.

Norton City Schools' Superintendent Dr. Gina Wohlford told council that Norton City Schools was one of 26 schools in Virginia that was chosen to receive the Virginia is for Learners Innovation Network grant and teacher training. She said the training will go through December and that the five teachers selected to receive the project training are returning to the school setting to train colleagues and they are working collaboratively in the classroom to bring project based learning to students at the high school.

Via an Ignite presentation, the three teachers in attendance presented council with information on the project and said the team created the hashtag "Innovative Raiders" to label their projects. They noted that because the school division is small it will be easier to implement project-based learning and that the goal of the program is to keep students engaged in learning and for learning to be relatable. The teachers shared results of various classroom projects and how the collaboration between different classes helped the students use critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, and how to have civil public discussions with differing opinions.

After a brief discussion and on behalf of council, Mayor Fawbush thanked Dr. Wohlford, Ms. Cassell, Ms. Godsey, and Ms. Barnette for the update on the Learners Innovation Network and for being role models for students.

Council had been presented in their packets with a Mutual County/City Boundary Designation Agreement.

Mr. Ramey provided council members with a colored map of the current and proposed E911 boundary that the city shares with Wise County and said state code allows for defined boundaries to be established between E911 centers so that emergency services can be dispatched in a more efficient manner. He said there are documented problems where calls came from outside of the jurisdiction of the responding E911 center. Mr. Ramey told council that all the counties that border Wise County have already gone through this process and the agreement in council's packets would formally designate the boundary between Wise County and the City of Norton for the purpose of routing E911 calls to the correct public-safety answering point (PSAP) center. He said city staff and emergency services have reviewed the document and are in agreement with the boundaries. Mr. Ramey said the city attorney has also reviewed the agreement and made some modifications for council's consideration.

After a brief discussion, and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to approve the Mutual County/City Boundary Designation with noted corrections made by Councilman Caruso and authorized the police chief and mayor to execute the final agreement on behalf of the city.

In packets for council consideration was a transfer to Norton City Schools, dated July 29, 2019, in the amount of \$225,000, to cover July 2019 payroll expenditures.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to confirm the transfer to Norton City Schools, as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, Belcher, NO –

None, ABSENT – None, council moved to go into closed meeting for Personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), for the Discussion or Consideration of the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose, or of the Disposition of Publicly Held Real Property, Where Discussion in an Open Meeting Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3), and consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Fawbush declared council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to go back into open meeting.

Mayor Fawbush declared council back in open meeting.

The clerk polled each member of council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes. The clerk then read a Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations to the Norton Tourism Committee for a four-year term to expire on September 30, 2023.

Councilman Fultz nominated Carol Caruso to be reappointed to the Norton Tourism Committee for a four-year term to expire on September 30, 2023.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Fawbush declared Carol Caruso reappointed to the Norton Tourism Committee for a four-year term to expire on September 30, 2023.

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey said the Benge Revenge Bike Race was held Saturday, September 7th with 20-30 cyclists participating in the race from Kentucky and Tennessee.

He said the Woodbooger Geocache event was also held Saturday, September 7th with 225 geocachers, representing 13 states, participating in the event. There were 150 participants who completed the Woodbooger Geocache and received the coin.

Mr. Ramey told council that Blue Ridge Outdoor Magazine informed him that the city did not make the three finalists for the Top Adventure Town, and that city administration is pleased to have made the top five finalists.

He said he provided council with the latest Retail Sales Tax Report for review.

Mr. Ramey said upcoming events include the High Knob Hellbender and the Woodbooger Festival scheduled for Saturday, October 5th. He said the Cloudsplitter Ultra 100 Trail Race is slated for October 12th and 13th with 119 runners registered representing three countries, Canada, Mexico, and Ireland.

He said the Virginia Municipal League (VML) Conference is planned for October 6th and 7th in Roanoke.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilwoman Belcher told fellow members she is looking forward to the completion of the WAXM Radio's façade improvement.

Councilwoman Belcher informed members she would be out of town for the October 1st council meeting.

Councilman Fultz informed council that the inflatable run through tunnel for the football team has been ordered and that the helmet will be ordered next year.

Mr. Ramey added the \$1,000 council authorized at the September 3rd meeting to assist with the purchase of the inflatable run through tunnel was presented to the school system today, September 17th.

Councilman Fultz suggested that the Community Remembrance Project resolution include information on Bruce Crawford for his role in ending the horrific lynchings that took place in Virginia.

Councilman Fultz asked if there was a timeline for the completion of the 11th Street Tennis Court Project.

The city manager advised there was not a timeline but the goal was to be finished before bad weather.

Councilman Fultz stated that 36 years ago this past Sunday he was in the Intensive Care Unit at Holston Valley Hospital in Kingsport, Tennessee, and with a bleak prognosis. He said he was not expected to walk and he should not have lived, but he is grateful that he defied the diagnosis.

Mayor Fawbush commented the grand opening of Sugar Hill Cidery went well and was well attended.

He said on September 12th he attended the Invest in Southwest Virginia rollout press announcement at the Higher Ed Center in Abingdon and the group has assembled a team of key figures to bring high-tech jobs to region.

Mayor Fawbush told members he attended the grand opening of Cassell Service Center today, September 17th.

Mayor Fawbush said he would be doing the radio program again this Wednesday, September 18th on WLSD Radio.

He said the Woodbooger Festival is in the final planning stages and this year's festival will be about the history of Norton.

There being no further business to come before council, and upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by consensus of council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT AND
ACKNOWLEDGING WITH PROFOUND REGRET THE EXISTENCE AND
ACCEPTANCE OF LYNCHING WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH AND CALLING FOR
RECONCILIATION AMONG ALL VIRGINIANS**

WHEREAS, the year 2019 marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival to the Jamestown settlement of the first Africans in what would become the United States, where they were enslaved, marking the beginning of nearly 250 years of slavery in the British colonies and in the new nation; and

WHEREAS, throughout America's history of slavery, segregation, and inequality, thousands of African Americans were lynched across America, particularly throughout the southern United States, to perpetuate racial inequality and white supremacy and to terrorize African American communities; and

WHEREAS, during Reconstruction, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution were ratified, abolishing slavery, granting citizenship to any person born or naturalized in the United States, and guaranteeing the rights to due process of law and equal protection under the law and the right to vote for African American men; and

WHEREAS, in outright defiance of the Reconstruction Amendments, people across the nation acted outside of the law, deliberately, violently, and brutally, against African American citizens in retribution for alleged or invented crimes and faced few or no consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Justice Initiative has documented more than 4,000 lynchings that took place throughout the South between 1877 and 1950, over 80 of which took place in Virginia; other scholarship documents more than 100 lynchings in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, African American men, women, and children lived in fear that their lives and the lives of loved ones could end violently at any time and in any place; and

WHEREAS, *Richmond Planet* editor John Mitchell, Jr., exposed lynchings in Virginia as they occurred and led the state's antilynching campaign; however, despite his efforts and other accounts, historians believe still more lynchings remain undocumented; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of racism that outlived slavery, enabled the rise and acceptance of lynching, facilitated segregation and disenfranchisement, and denied education and civil rights to African Americans has yet to be uprooted in Virginia, the South, and the nation, and this dark and shameful chapter of American history must be understood, acknowledged, and fully documented and the seemingly irreparable breach mended; and

WHEREAS, the most abject apology for past wrongs cannot right them; yet the spirit of true repentance on behalf of a government and, through it, a people can promote reconciliation and healing and avert the repetition of past wrongs and the disregard of manifested injustices; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Equal Justice Initiative began investigating thousands of racial terror lynchings in the American South in an effort to understand the terror and trauma this sanctioned violence against the African American community created, resulting in the report *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror* in 2015 and the opening of the Memorial for Peace and Justice on April 26, 2018, as the nation's first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Justice Initiative created the Community Remembrance Project to create greater awareness and understanding about racial terror lynchings and to begin a necessary conversation that advances truth and reconciliation by working with communities to commemorate and recognize the traumatic era of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites across the country and erecting historical markers and monuments in these spaces; and

WHEREAS, the University of Virginia's College at Wise received a \$30,000 grant to fund research on the three lynchings that occurred in Wise County; and

WHEREAS, the UVa-Wise research discovered that Bruce Crawford, who graduated from Norhi in 1915 and owned the Crawford Weekly Newspaper in Norton, bravely stood up against the Ku Klux Klan in 1923 through his reporting on the lynching of Leonard Wood and his personal offer of a reward for the names of anyone who participated in Mr. Wood's murder; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crawford's articles regarding lynchings were re-printed by state and national publications; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crawford was instrumental in getting Virginia Governor Harry F. Byrd to get the Virginia General Assembly to pass the first anti-lynching law in 1928, making lynching a state crime; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly established the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission in 1992 to continue the work of Dr. King, himself a victim of violence, as he sought to realize his dream of a "Beloved Community" in which love, peace, and justice prevail over hatred and fear.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Norton joins the Virginia General Assembly and communities across the Commonwealth to hereby acknowledge with profound regret the existence and acceptance of lynching within the Commonwealth and call for reconciliation among all Virginians; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the City Council that the Commonwealth's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission make as complete a record as possible of each documented lynching that occurred in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including the names of the victims and the locations and circumstances of each occurrence, to be preserved on the Commission's website, and develop programming to bring awareness and recognition of this history to communities across the state, that such awareness might contribute to the process of healing and reconciliation in Virginia's still-wounded communities and for families and descendants affected by lynchings; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this City Council joins the Virginia General Assembly and other communities across the Commonwealth to request that the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission coordinate with the Department of Historic Resources to identify sites for historic markers to recognize documented lynchings and assist the Equal Justice Initiative in its Community Remembrance Project in the Commonwealth; and,

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that the Clerk of City Council transmit a copy of this resolution to the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission requesting that it further disseminate copies of this resolution to their respective constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the City of Norton in this matter.

ADOPTED this 1st day of October, 2019.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk

2019 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 655

Acknowledging with profound regret the existence and acceptance of lynching within the Commonwealth.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 21, 2019

Agreed to by the Senate, February 20, 2019

WHEREAS, the year 2019 marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival to the Jamestown settlement of the first Africans in what would become the United States, where they were enslaved, marking the beginning of nearly 250 years of slavery in the British colonies and in the new nation; and

WHEREAS, throughout America's history of slavery, segregation, and inequality, thousands of African Americans were lynched across America, particularly throughout the southern United States, to perpetuate racial inequality and white supremacy and to terrorize African American communities; and

WHEREAS, during Reconstruction, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution were ratified, abolishing slavery, granting citizenship to any person born or naturalized in the United States, and guaranteeing the rights to due process of law and equal protection under the law and the right to vote for African American men; and

WHEREAS, in outright defiance of the Reconstruction Amendments, people across the nation acted outside of the law, deliberately, violently, and brutally, against African American citizens in retribution for alleged or invented crimes and faced few or no consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Justice Initiative has documented more than 4,000 lynchings that took place throughout the South between 1877 and 1950, over 80 of which took place in Virginia; other scholarship documents more than 100 lynchings in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, African American men, women, and children lived in fear that their lives and the lives of loved ones could end violently at any time and in any place; and

WHEREAS, lynchings were often widely known and publicly attended; some were witnessed by crowds that numbered in the thousands, reflecting community acceptance, and many leaders and authorities and much of society denied and enabled the illegal and horrific nature of the acts; and

WHEREAS, *Richmond Planet* editor John Mitchell, Jr., exposed lynchings in Virginia as they occurred and led the state's anti-lynching campaign; however, despite his efforts and other accounts, historians believe still more lynchings remain undocumented; and

WHEREAS, at the urging of *Norfolk Virginia-Pilot* editor Louis Isaac Jaffe and other anti-lynching activists, and to curtail mob violence in Virginia, the General Assembly passed an anti-lynching measure that was signed into law on March 14, 1928, declaring lynching a state crime; and

WHEREAS, the extreme racial animus, violence, and terror embodied in the act of lynching did not die with the criminalization of the act, and few, if any, prosecutions occurred under the measure; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of racism that outlived slavery, enabled the rise and acceptance of lynching, facilitated segregation and disenfranchisement, and denied education and civil rights to African Americans has yet to be uprooted in Virginia, the South, and the nation, and this dark and shameful chapter of American history must be understood, acknowledged, and fully documented and the seemingly irreparable breach mended; and

WHEREAS, the most abject apology for past wrongs cannot right them; yet the spirit of true repentance on behalf of a government and, through it, a people can promote reconciliation and healing and avert the repetition of past wrongs and the disregard of manifested injustices; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Equal Justice Initiative began investigating thousands of racial terror lynchings in the American South in an effort to understand the terror and trauma this sanctioned violence against the African American community created, resulting in the report *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror* in 2015 and the opening of the Memorial for Peace and Justice on April 26, 2018, as the nation's first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Justice Initiative created the Community Remembrance Project to create greater awareness and understanding about racial terror lynchings and to begin a necessary conversation that advances truth and reconciliation by working with communities to commemorate and recognize the traumatic era of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites across the country and erecting historical markers and monuments in these spaces; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly established the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission in 1992 to continue the work of Dr. King, himself a victim of violence, as he sought to realize his dream of a "Beloved Community" in which love, peace, and justice prevail over hatred and

ENROLLED

HJ655ER

2 of 2

fear; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby acknowledge with profound regret the existence and acceptance of lynching within the Commonwealth and call for reconciliation among all Virginians; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission make as complete a record as possible of each documented lynching that occurred in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including the names of the victims and the locations and circumstances of each occurrence, to be preserved on the Commission's website, and develop programming to bring awareness and recognition of this history to communities across the state, that such awareness might contribute to the process of healing and reconciliation in Virginia's still-wounded communities and for families and descendants affected by lynchings; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission coordinate with the Department of Historic Resources to identify sites for historic markers to recognize documented lynchings and assist the Equal Justice Initiative in its Community Remembrance Project in the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, requesting that it further disseminate copies of this resolution to its constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

SCOTT RISER PHOTO

...Addington Middle School championship
...Colton Arney and Tracy Wang.

...rue. He also commended the annual
...orts of Mark Giles, who organizes the
...mpetition.

...L.F. Addington championship team
...embers were Seth Boggs, Gavin Collins,
...hannon Baker, Colton Arney, Tracy
...ang, Jackson Ramey, Charles Maine,
...ece Elkins, Jason Mellon, Tavish
...ratton and Malachi Ledford.

are protested



INVEST VIRGINIA PHOTO

...dirty industry with no regard for the health
...ty of our people and communities."
...elease alleged that Wells Fargo has a finan-
...nship with Energy Transfer Partners, the
...y behind the Dakota Access pipeline project
...company that "bought out the land holdings of
...ginia Resources."

...s that took action locally were Southern
...nian Mountain Stewards and the Alliance for
...hia.

...information can be found at
...www.facebook.com/investvirginia.

...according to the company's
...announcement.

...Thrower, Blanton has a

MERGER, PAGE 2

Project recalls lynching victims

JENAY TATE

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

WISE — After hearing
about local involvement in a
community remembrance
project to memorialize
lynchings that terrorized
African-
Americans,
Wise County
School Board
directed its
attorney to
draft for con-
sideration a
resolution of
support and
partnership.

The last
documented
lynching in
Virginia
happened
in 1927 at
Pound Gap.

Retired

Wise County teacher and
coach Preston Mitchell, who
also is an Episcopalian min-
ister, made the request at the
board's May 14 meeting.
Mitchell outlined the origins
of the Equal Justice
Initiative, his role over the
course of the past year and
the history of lynchings in
Wise County.

The last documented
lynching in Virginia hap-
pened right here in 1927, at
Pound Gap, from a platform
that had been erected a week
earlier to celebrate the open-
ing of the road between
Virginia and Kentucky.

A mining engineer from
Coeburn, Herschel Deaton,
was allegedly shot and killed
by a black coal miner,
Leonard Woods, near

LYNCHINGS, PAGE 2

► Lynchings

FROM PAGE 1

Jenkins, Ky. After his burial, a group of white men, mostly from Coeburn, took 36 cars over the mountain and broke Woods out of the Whitesburg jail and, with some 500 people assembled, hung him, riddled him with bullets and burned his body, Mitchell related to the board.

One aspect of the Community Remembrance Project is to erect historic markers in these spaces.

The very first one, created by the Equal Justice Initiative of Montgomery, Ala., features 805 rusted steel coffins hanging suspended from rafters and one of those represents Wise County's three lynchings. The Montgomery group has documented 4,400 lynchings in the United States.

The first marker in Virginia was established in Charles City last month.

In order to procure a historic marker for victims of mob violence, the application requires five individual sponsors. But Mitchell said they have a consortium of four partners, including the University of Virginia's College at Wise, a group of Wise County Episcopal churches, a group of African-American churches and

the Historical Society of The Pound, and want the school board to be the fifth. Representatives from each group were on hand that night.

Mitchell has spoken more than a half-dozen times on the topic over the last year and has encountered sentiments questioning the undertaking, he said, such as "Why are you bringing this up? We know lynching was bad. Why dredge up these memories?"

The answer rests in the General Assembly's joint resolution, he told the school board, reading an excerpt. The "extreme racial animus, violence, and terror embodied in the act of lynching did not die with the criminalization of the act..."

"The legacy of racism that outlived slavery, enabled the rise and acceptance of lynching, facilitated segregation and disenfranchisement, and denied education and civil rights to African Americans has yet to be uprooted in Virginia, the South, and the nation, and this dark and shameful chapter of American history must be understood, acknowledged, and fully documented and the seemingly irreparable breach mended."

The Equal Justice Initiative created the Community Remembrance Project, Mitchell read from the state resolution, "to create greater awareness and understanding about racial terror lynchings and to begin a necessary conversation that advances truth and reconciliation by working with communities to commemorate and recognize the traumatic era of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites across the country and erecting historical markers and monuments in these spaces."

The initiative in Virginia got bipartisan and unanimous support with one resolution proposed by a Democrat and one by a Republican, Mitchell told the board.

It's not a partisan issue, not a liberal or conservative issue, he said.

Had the General Assembly not passed this unanimously, he said, "I don't know that I would go and open up the wounds." There had been backlash against the effort in Wytheville, he said, and locally they decided to lay groundwork.

The local group has formed to fulfill the promise of the state legislature's resolution. The group will research and document the three Wise County lynchings, will attempt to identify and talk to sur-

viving descendants of victims, work with the Equal Justice Initiative and the State Department of Historic Resources to erect memorials to the lynchings, and prepare curricular materials for use in local schools.

UVA-Wise has employed interns to do the research on the Wise County lynchings. They have already taken one trip to Montgomery and will take another in the fall.

As a teacher, he said, when you can bring in the community it makes lessons more alive than in a textbook. The lessons will be designed for high school students, he confirmed, noting, "These are uncomfortable things to talk about."

He recalled when he came to Pound to teach and coach, they had no black students in school or the community.

Looking back on it, "my guys" had very little interaction with people of color, he said, and today only a very small percentage of local communities are African-American.

It makes it "that much more important that we address these issues," Mitchell said. "Our students are not going to stay in a cocoon... We need to prepare them for the world."

caught Hill a short distance away.

separated while the drug smoked a lot of meth earlier."

RESOLUTION 19-012 COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeburn has been approached for support to further the purpose of the Community Remembrance Project Resolution that was passed unanimously by the Virginia House of Delegates on February 21, 2019, and agreed to by the Senate on February 20, 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Equal Justice Initiative created the Community Remembrance Project to create greater awareness and understanding about racial terror lynchings and to begin a necessary conversation that advances truth and reconciliation by working with communities to commemorate and recognize the traumatic era of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites across the country and erecting historical markers and monuments in these spaces, and

WHEREAS, the Joint Resolution of the House and Senate directed that the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission develop programming to bring awareness and recognition of this history to communities across the state, as such awareness might contribute to the process of healing and reconciliation in Virginia's still-wounded communities and for families and descendants affected by lynchings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Coeburn supports the objectives of JOINT RESOLUTION 655 that was passed unanimously by the House and Senate to further the purpose and education involving the Community Remembrance Project. Furthermore, in passing this Resolution, the Town Council and its members pledge to uphold the values of Authenticity,

Forthrightness, Collaboration, Listening with Respect, and Empowered Courtesy personally and in the Town Council's involvement in the Community Remembrance Project and to be held accountable to the Community Remembrance Project Values.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution is adopted this 12th day of August, 2019, and a copy of this Resolution shall be presented to the local organizers of the Community Remembrance Project who are working to document the area's history and to further the purpose of Joint Resolution 655.

Jeff Kiser, Mayor

Sharon Still, Vice-Mayor

Mike Holbrook, Council Member

Mike Wright, Council Member

Devantae Mooney, Council Member

ATTEST:

Kathy Sharpe, Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 42, 2019**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ACKNOWLEDGING,
WITH PROFOUND REGRET, THE EXISTENCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF LYNCHING WITHIN THE
COMMONWEALTH AND CALLING FOR RECONCILIATION AMONG ALL VIRGINIANS**

WHEREAS, the year 2019 marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival to the Jamestown settlement of the first Africans in what would become the United States, where they were enslaved, marking the beginning of nearly 250 years of slavery in the British colonies and in the new nation; and

WHEREAS, throughout America's history of slavery, segregation, and inequality, thousands of African Americans were lynched across America, particularly throughout the southern United States, to perpetuate racial inequality and white supremacy and to terrorize African American communities; and

WHEREAS, during Reconstruction, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution were ratified, abolishing slavery, granting citizenship to any person born or naturalized in the United States, and guaranteeing the rights to due process of law and equal protection under the law and the right to vote for African American men; and

WHEREAS, in outright defiance of the Reconstruction Amendments, people across the nation acted outside of the law, deliberately, violently, and brutally, against African American citizens in retribution for alleged or invented crimes and faced few or no consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Justice Initiative has documented more than 4,000 lynchings that took place throughout the South between 1877 and 1950, over 80 of which took place in Virginia; other scholarship documents more than 100 lynchings in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, African American men, women, and children lived in fear that their lives and the lives of loved ones could end violently at any time and in any place; and

WHEREAS, lynchings were often widely known and publicly attended; some were witnessed by crowds that numbered in the thousands, reflecting community acceptance, and many leaders and authorities and much of society denied and enabled the illegal and horrific nature of the acts; and

WHEREAS, Richmond Planet editor John Mitchell, Jr., exposed lynchings in Virginia as they occurred and led the state's anti-lynching campaign; however, despite his efforts and other accounts, historians believe still more lynchings remain undocumented; and

WHEREAS, at the urging of Norfolk Virginia-Pilot editor Louis Isaac Jaffe and other anti-lynching activists, and to curtail mob violence in Virginia, the General Assembly passed an anti-lynching measure that was signed into law on March 14, 1928, declaring lynching a state crime; and

RESOLUTION NO. 42, 2019**Page Two of Three**

WHEREAS, the extreme racial animus, violence, and terror embodied in the act of lynching did not die with the criminalization of the act, and few, if any, prosecutions occurred under the measure; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of racism that outlived slavery, enabled the rise and acceptance of lynching, facilitated segregation and disenfranchisement, and denied education and civil rights to African Americans has yet to be uprooted in Virginia, the South, and the nation, and this dark and shameful chapter of American history must be understood, acknowledged, and fully documented and the seemingly irreparable breach mended; and

WHEREAS, the most abject apology for past wrongs cannot right them; yet the spirit of true repentance on behalf of a government and, through it, a people can promote reconciliation and healing and avert the repetition of past wrongs and the disregard of manifested injustices; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Equal Justice Initiative began investigating thousands of racial terror lynchings in the American South in an effort to understand the terror and trauma this sanctioned violence against the African American community created, resulting in the report *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror* in 2015 and the opening of the Memorial for Peace and Justice on April 26, 2018, as the nation's first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Justice Initiative created the Community Remembrance Project to create greater awareness and understanding about racial terror lynchings and to begin a necessary conversation that advances truth and reconciliation by working with communities to commemorate and recognize the traumatic era of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites across the country and erecting historical markers and monuments in these spaces; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly established the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission in 1992 to continue the work of Dr. King, himself a victim of violence, as he sought to realize his dream of a "Beloved Community" in which love, peace, and justice prevail over hatred and fear.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Wise, Virginia that the Town hereby acknowledges with profound regret the existence and acceptance of lynching within the Commonwealth and call for reconciliation among all Virginians; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by said Town Council that the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission make as complete a record as possible of each documented lynching that occurred in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including the names of the victims and the

RESOLUTION NO. 42, 2019**Page Three of Three**

locations and circumstances of each occurrence, to be preserved on the Commission's website, and develop programming to bring awareness and recognition of this history to communities across the state, that such awareness might contribute to the process of healing and reconciliation in Virginia's still-wounded communities and for families and descendants affected by lynchings; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by said Town Council that the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission coordinate with the Department of Historic Resources to identify sites for historic markers to recognize documented lynchings and assist the Equal Justice Initiative in its Community Remembrance Project in the Commonwealth; and,

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that the Clerk of Council transmit a copy of this resolution to the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, requesting that it further disseminate copies of this resolution to its constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the Wise Town Council.

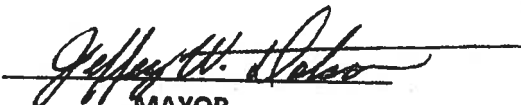
VOTING "AYE": Jeffery Dotson, Teresa Adkins, Laura Taylor-Baugh, Billy Bartlett, Jr.,
Caynor Smith, Jr.

VOTING "NAY": None

ABSENT: None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE this the 27th day of August, 2019.

TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CLERK OF COUNCIL

BAYOU 5:

TEAM BROCHURE

The Bayou 5 (Class 25B) team holds the traditional AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) values to heart in order to get our projects done in the most effective and professional way possible. With team members of various and diverse backgrounds and under our outstanding team leader, Zack Thompson, we bring a wide variety of ideas and values to every project in an effort to keep the AmeriCorps tradition of healthy diverse teamwork going strong. None of this could be possible without our *fantastic* supporters and sponsors, and we strive for a successful year as a thank you.



CAMPUS ADDRESS:

2715 Confederate Avenue
Vicksburg, MS 39180

(601) 630-4040

TEAM LEADER INFO:

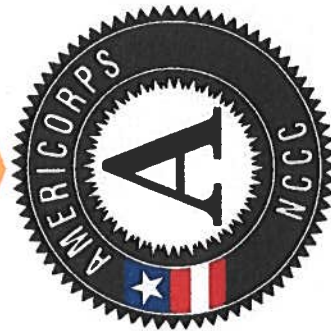
Zack Thompson

(769) 203-0956

tl.zachary.thompson@gmail.com

AMERICORPS PLEDGE

"I will get things done for America. To make our people safer, smarter, and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done!"



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps will strengthen communities and develop leaders through team-based national and community service.

Zack Thompson
T Shirt Size: Large
Hometown: Olympia, Washington
Favorite Quote: *Zack does not have favorites.*
 I'm passionate, driven and excited to lead my team in a year of service.

Dylan E. Damkoehler
T Shirt: Large
Hometown: Parker, Colorado
Favorite Quote: "One of My Proudest Moments is I didn't sell my soul for the sake of popularity." -George W. Bush
 You could often see me at the movie theaters or making dumb YouTube videos.

Dominic Brown
T Shirt Size: S/Medium
Hometown: New Jersey
Favorite Quote: "All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

J.R.R Tolkien
 I am unique as a true rainbow and my favorite place is Ritae.

Garrett McKay
T Shirt Size: Medium
Hometown: Denver, Colorado
Favorite Quote: "Man who does not learn history remains always a child" Anonymous
 I am an outdoor enthusiast who loves to skateboard and ski.



Kira Gaskjen:
T Shirt Size: Small
Hometown: Fishers, Indiana
Favorite Quote: "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world" -John Muir
 I have a passion for the environment, animals, art and doing anything outdoors.

Sam Browning:
T Shirt Size: X Large
Hometown: Kansas City, Missouri
Favorite Quote: "Still you refer to us as children. No wonder our successes mount, you constantly underestimate us." - Aqualad
 I enjoy reading and writing fiction novels.

Claudia
T Shirt Size: X Large
Hometown: Manchester, New Hampshire
Favorite Quote: "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." Dr. Seuss
 I love to play hockey and basketball, as well as spending a lot of time with my family.

Rachel Casey
T Shirt Size: Small
Hometown: Austin, Texas
Favorite Quote: "Trust the vibes you get because energy doesn't lie" - Anonymous
 I like to dance badly and have a good time.



Garrett Mckay

With Sincere Appreciation for Your
Contribution as Part of the AmeriCorps
NCCC: Southern Region Bayou 5 Team
Assigned to Develop Trails in the
Flag Rock Recreation Area.

August – October 2019

Presented By

Norton City Council

October 1, 2019



Rachel Casey

With Sincere Appreciation for Your
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Flag Rock Recreation Area.

August – October 2019

Presented By
Norton City Council
October 1, 2019



Sam Browning

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August – October 2019

Presented By
Norton City Council
October 1, 2019



Kira Gafkjen

With Sincere Appreciation for Your
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August – October 2019

Presented By
Norton City Council
October 1, 2019



Dylan Damkoehler

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August – October 2019

Presented By
Norton City Council
October 1, 2019



Zack Thompson

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August – October 2019

Presented By
Norton City Council
October 1, 2019



Claudia Carmosino

With Sincere Appreciation for Your
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Flag Rock Recreation Area.

August – October 2019

Presented By

Norton City Council

October 1, 2019



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA
State Health Commissioner

P O Box 2448
RICHMOND, VA 23218

TTY 7-1-1 OR
1-800-828-1120

September 13, 2019

Subject: Wise County
Water – City of Norton
Clear Creek Water Line Replacement
Project – Phase III
WSL – 044-20

Mr. Fred Ramey, City Manager
City of Norton
P.O. Box 618
Norton, Virginia 24273

Re: 2020 Drinking Water Construction/Financial Assistance
DWSRF Initial Offer

Dear Mr. Ramey:

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has completed a preliminary review of your application for drinking water construction funds. The determination of the funding package is shown below; however, this determination and your inclusion in VDH's Intended Use Plan is contingent on the availability of federal and state funding as well as the conditions below.

Based on the information provided, VDH determined the total funding package for your project is estimated to be **\$155,956**. The funding package consists of **\$77,978 as principal forgiveness (grant)** and **\$77,978 as a loan for a term of 30 years and interest rate of 2.5%**. EPA requires that the loan be the lesser of the design life of the improvements or 30 years. Please notify us if the design life of the improvements are less than 30 years. The funding package was determined using information provided in your loan application.

Your project may be eligible for an additional interest reduction of **0.2%** under our Expedited Closing Program. To qualify for the Expedited Closing Program VDH requires your loan closing be completed within 12 months of our award letter. If this funding offer is accepted, then you will receive an award letter after this. If you will participate in this special program, please indicate your plans for complying in your response letter.

VDH recommends waterworks owners implement a revenue growth model that includes automatic annual rate adjustments that exceed inflation. Having adequate financial resources is crucial to maintaining a successful and sustainable waterworks. VDH recommends waterworks self-evaluate

Mr. Fred Ramey, City Manager
 September 13, 2019
 Page 2

their financial positions using the attached *Building Financial Sustainability/Financial Health Indicators* to ensure they are able to provide for financial sustainability. You should begin to prepare your latest audited financial statement to avoid any delays in credit review and loan closing.

VDH recommends all waterworks maintain updated Waterworks Business Operation Plans, Asset Management Plans, and/or Capital Improvement Plans. In your response letter, please notify us of the status of your plans. A recently updated Asset Management Plan and Waterworks Business Operations Plan is required. VDH may be able to make funds available if you need to update your plans.

The federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) appropriation for FY 2020 is not yet finalized. Complying with the American Iron and Steel, Davis Bacon Prevailing Wage, and other provisions are required.

The funding package and loan closing are conditioned on and are subject to change based on (but not limited to) the following:

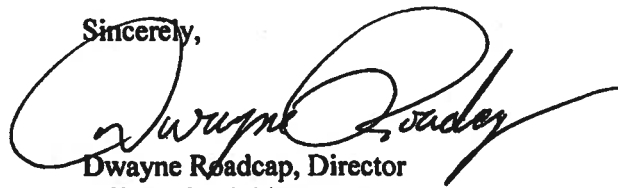
- (1) The availability of federal and state match funds to support the DWSRF Program,
- (2) New restrictions/conditions that the EPA or VDH may require for participation in the Program or in the use of the SRF funds.
- (3) The purpose, benefit, or scope of the project changes from the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) or the DWSRF Application; or the VDH-ODW Field Office does not concur with the project purpose, benefit, or scope,
- (4) Owner complying with the DWSRF Program requirements, and owner's progress to a timely closing according to a pre-negotiated schedule, or delays/changes in project readiness to proceed,
- (5) Owner's history of activities with the ODW/DWSRF Program (i.e. late or non-payments or non-compliance),
- (6) Owner obtaining user agreements from future water users in the project area, (if applicable)
- (7) The financial estimates provided in your loan application changing,
- (8) Owner's ability to secure the loan, all loan offers will require a credit report acceptable to VDH, rate increases may be required to secure the loan.
- (9) Owner soliciting other lenders for parity on this new debt,
- (10) Owner being debarred or suspended from applying for state or federal funds,
- (11) Waterworks maintaining compliance with the Virginia *Waterworks Regulations* and other applicable state/federal laws, regulations, policies, and procedures, and
- (12) EPA mandates that all program assistance recipients demonstrate full technical, financial, and managerial capacity in order to receive funds. VDH may place special requirements on recipients in order to ensure capacity requirements are met prior to loan closing.

An acceptance of this funding offer reflects a commitment on your part to these requirements. VDH reserves the right to by-pass any project that has not executed financial agreements within 12 months from the date of VDH's original award letter.

Mr. Fred Ramey, City Manager
September 13, 2019
Page 3

Please notify April Helbert, P.E., Acting FCAP Team Leader, in writing, coping me, as soon as possible but no later than October 18, 2019 at the address above of your acceptance of this initial funding package offer or any concerns and additional factors that should be considered. Failure to notify Ms. Helbert and I can be deemed as your withdrawal from this program. Please use the above referenced project number and name on all correspondence. Ms. Helbert's mailing address is VDH Office of Drinking Water, Abingdon Field Office, 407 E. Main Street, Suite 2, Abingdon, Virginia 24210. She can be reached at (276) 525-6152 or by e-mail at April.Helbert@vdh.virginia.gov. I can be contacted at (804) 864-7522 or by email at Dwayne.Roadcap@vdh.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Dwayne Roadcap, Director
Office of Drinking Water

cc: Barry Matthews, CPG, Division Director – Training, Capacity Development and Outreach
Keith Kornegay, P.E., Acting Director, FCAP - LFO
April Helbert, P.E., Acting Team Leader, FCAP - AFO
Lenowisco Planning District Commission
E. Sue Cantrell, MD, District Health Director
Brian Blankenship, P.E., ODW Field Director, Abingdon Field Office

VDH/OFFICE OF DRINKING WATER
FINANCIAL AND CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (FCAP)

Building Financial Sustainability/Financial Health Indicators

Having adequate financial capacity and an acceptable credit review is a Program requirement for revolving fund loan projects. Listed below are some financial indicators that may be evaluated during a review by VDH or by the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA). Reviews are not limited to the factors listed below and may include other factors.

Revenue Pledge Factors: *(User fees pledged for loan repayment)*

1. **Debt Service Coverage Ratio:** Net Revenue (revenue – O&M) available for debt service divided by applicable debt service. Evaluated using the first two fiscal years after project completion.
 - Poor Less than 1.15x
 - Adequate From 1.15x to 1.5x
 - Strong Greater than 1.5x
2. **Days Cash on Hand:** Amount of total available unrestricted liquid reserves divided by daily operating expenditure requirements.
 - Poor Less than 60 days
 - Adequate From 60 to 120 days
 - Strong Greater than 120 days
3. **Operating Ratio:** Total operating income plus operating reserves divided by total operating costs (not including debt)
 - Poor Less than 1.1
 - Adequate From 1.1 to 3.0, Small systems (1.25 to 3.0), Medium and large (1.1 to 2.0)
 - Strong Greater than 3.0 Small systems (3.0), Medium and large (2.0)

General Obligation Factors:¹ *(Locality pledges its full faith and credit, backed by taxing power)*

4. **State Aid (if applicable):** Available state aid divided by applicable debt service.
 - Poor Less than 1.0x
 - Adequate From 1.0x to 1.5x
 - Strong Greater than 1.5x
5. **Debt Service vs. Expenditures:** Debt service compared to the total operating budget.
 - Poor Greater than 15%
 - Adequate From 10% to 15%
 - Strong Less than 10%

¹ Evaluate the debt, revenues, and expenses of the entire entity and not just the waterworks enterprise fund

6. **Unassigned Fund Balance:** Unassigned fund balance vs. total revenue.

- Poor Less than 5%
- Adequate From 5% to 10%
- Strong Greater than 10%

7. **Debt Payout Ratio:** Measurement of how much debt is paid off in ten years.

- Poor Less than 50%
- Adequate From 50% to 60%
- Strong Greater than 60%

8. **Total Debt vs. Total Valuation:**

- Poor Greater than 6%
- Adequate From 2% to 6%
- Strong Less than 2%

Other Factors:

9. **Affordability Index Target:** Annual residential bill divided by Annual Median Household Income (MHI).

- 1% for average gallons per month*
- 2% for 5,000 gallons per month

* Use the rate structure (in-town, if applicable) for residential customers and apply it to the average monthly residential water usage to derive the average monthly user rate for evaluation under the DWSRF Program. The average monthly residential water usage is to be based on residential water meter data. Waterworks are expected to meet or exceed the target rate criteria at the time of project completion.

Other considerations:

Experience has shown that fairly structured utility rates that implement gradual rate increases annually have been the most acceptable to the ratepayers and most effective in keeping revenue at pace with costs.

VDH recommends waterworks implement a revenue growth model that factors in increases (e.g. operational costs, inflation, etc.), other costs (e.g. asset/equipment replacements, technology upgrades, capital improvements, etc.), and takes into account other potential revenue reductions (e.g. future regulations, reductions from water conservation, etc.).

VDH recommends waterworks establish and fund a capital reserve fund that adequately supports capital improvements and asset replacements.

VDH reserves the right to require an implementation schedule acceptable to VDH for those waterworks that may need additional time for implementation of significant rate increases.



Judy K. Miller
Commissioner Of The Revenue
City of Norton

P.O. Box 347
Norton, Virginia 24273-0347

Phone (276) 679-0031
Fax (276) 679-3510

Date: September 23, 2019
To: Barbara Muir
 Treasurer, City of Norton
From: Judy K. Miller *JKM*
 Commissioner of the Revenue
Subject: Refund/PP
 Tax year: 2019

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Reasoning</u>	<u>Refund Amt.</u>
Dwayne mac Hopkins 4330 Junction Road Norton, Va 24273	2019	Erroneous Assessed Lives in Wise County	\$210.00

If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Thanks.

cc: Fred Ramey
 City Manager



Judy K. Miller
Commissioner Of The Revenue
City of Norton

P.O. Box 347
Norton, Virginia 24273-0347

Phone (276) 679-0031
Fax (276) 679-3510

Date: September 23, 2019

To: Barbara Muir
 Treasurer, City of Norton

From: Judy K. Miller *JKM*
 Commissioner of the Revenue

Subject: 2019 Real Estate Public Service

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Reasoning</u>	<u>Amt. Of Refund</u>
Cellco Partnership P. O. Box 635 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920	RE2019	SCC had not provided a statement of Assessed Value when 1 st half was submitted	\$263.57

2019 Public Service Real Estate assessment was based on 2018 State Corporation Commission calculations for the City of Norton's 1st half billing which was due May 15, 2019.

State Corporation did not submit the actual 2019 Real Estate Assessment for Public Service until September 19, 2019 so therefore the correct assessment for the 1st half could not be determined.

If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Thanks.

cc: Fred Ramey
 City Manager



Judy K. Miller
Commissioner Of The Revenue
City of Norton

P.O. Box 347
Norton, Virginia 24273-0347

Phone (276) 679-0031
Fax (276) 679-3510

Date: September 23, 2019
To: Barbara Muir
 Treasurer, City of Norton
From: Judy K. Miller *JKM*
 Commissioner of the Revenue
Subject: 2019 Real Estate Public Service

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Reasoning</u>	<u>Amt. Of Refund</u>
Windstream KDL P. O. Box 2629 Addison, Texas 75001	RE2019	SCC had not provided a statement of Assessed Value when 1 st half was submitted	\$86.90

2019 Public Service Real Estate assessment was based on 2018 State Corporation Commission calculations for the City of Norton's 1st half billing which was due May 15, 2019.

State Corporation did not submit the actual 2019 Real Estate Assessment for Public Service until September 19, 2019 so therefore the correct assessment for the 1st half could not be determined.

If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Thanks.

cc: Fred Ramey
 City Manager



Inter-Office Memo

To: City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr. *FR*
CC:
Date: September 27, 2019
Re: 2020 Fireworks

It's that time of year that we need to enter into a contract with our fireworks vendor. We have worked with our current fireworks vendor for well over 20 years and have shared an excellent working relationship. In 2015, due to a change in the Virginia License Requirements for a Fireworks Technician, our vendor was no longer able to bring in licensed technicians from outside the state unless they were also licensed in Virginia. That led to a shortage of fireworks technicians for fireworks display, specifically on popular dates such as the 4th of July.

In 2017, City Council determined to move forward with our annual fireworks by promoting an Independence Day Celebration that would be held on a weekend near the 4th. This year July 4th falls on a Saturday, so the City Administration would like to discuss our options for our 2020 Independence Day Celebration.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank You.

INV. DATE	INVOICE#	G/L ACCT. #	GROSS AMOUNT	DISC. AMOUNT	NET AMOU
7/15/2019	45928	40-010-41020-5407	602.13	.00	602.1
7/29/2019	46063	40-010-41020-5407	111,113.03	.00	111,113.0
7/31/2019	46110	40-010-41020-5407	452.54	.00	452.5
8/01/2019	46133	40-010-41020-5407	469.92	.00	469.9

8/09/2019	21450	151028	112,637.62	.00	112,637.62
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CITY OF NORTON
GENERAL OPERATING FUND
NORTON, VA 24273

THE FIRST BANK & TRUST
NORTON, VA

151028

88-446/

151028

112 THOUSAND 637 DOLLARS 62 CENTS

PAY TO THE ORDER OF:

W-L CONSTRUCTION &
PAVING, INC.
P.O. BOX 277111
ATLANTA

GA 30384-7111

DATE

AMOUNT

8/09/2019

\$112637.62


AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE MP